

SEPTEMBER 24
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Vassiliou criticises Turkish Cypriots

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Cypriot President George Vassiliou blamed the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey for the failure to convene an international meeting this month to end the division on Cyprus. "At no time during the last three years was the world community as hopeful that a solution of the Cyprus problem was close at hand as it was this summer," he said in a speech to the General Assembly. Mr. Vassiliou, who is also leader of the Greek Cypriot community, said he welcomed an announcement by U.S. President George Bush on Aug. 2 that a meeting would take place by the end of September if adequate progress was made by then. Mr. Vassiliou was referring to long-standing United Nations efforts to obtain agreement on a federal system of government to reunite the island. "It soon transpired that the Turkish Cypriot leadership was placing augmented preconditions for the continuation of the process," Mr. Vassiliou said. His claim to "a separatist right to self-determination" was responsible for the failure of talks here early last year under the auspices of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, he added.

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Bush releases aid to Jordan

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush, citing Jordan's recent help in the Middle East peace process, has told Congress he is releasing U.S. military aid to Amman that had been frozen by Congress. The U.S. Congress had frozen the aid last April because of Jordan's support for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Mr. Bush's decision, reflecting a gradual warming of relations between the two countries, follows the freeing of Jordan's economic aid in July. In a letter to Congress made public Friday, Mr. Bush said Jordan would now be eligible for \$20 million in arms sales financing and would be provided up to \$750,000 in military training. Fulfilling the requirements of the April legislation, Mr. Bush issued a Congress that the aid would be beneficial to the Middle East peace process and was in the U.S. national interest. A memorandum justifying the decision to obligate the aid funds said that since Mr. Bush released the economic aid in July, "Jordan has clarified its stance on the Middle East peace process in a very helpful way." It said the Jordan government had stated categorically that it would attend an Arab-Israeli peace conference arranged by the United States and had initiated discussions with Palestinians to form a joint delegation to the conference. The statement said the administration intended to monitor Jordan's policies closely, including its role in the peace process and its enforcement of United Nations resolutions on Iraq in making specific decisions on aid. "Jordan has begun taking important steps to make the goal of a regional peace conference and direct talks between Jordan and Israel a reality," the statement said. "Jordan's continued cooperation will be a key to further progress." The statement said that U.S. military aid to Jordan "and especially the important message of support it sends" would contribute to Jordan's stability and security and help establish an atmosphere of trust.

Menem to promote Mideast peace

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem leaves Sunday for official visits to Israel and Tunisia during which he will seek to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Middle East. "The president will stress (the need to) achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East...which recognises the right of all the states in the region to live peacefully within secure and internationally accepted frontiers," a statement by the presidential spokesman said. Mr. Menem, who governs Latin America's biggest Jewish community and is himself of Syrian descent, has frequently offered to mediate Mideast peace conflict.

Amra Hotel introduces CNN service

AMMAN — In line with its ongoing efforts to offer the best for its clients and businessmen, Amra Hotel has introduced the CNN channel in all its rooms and other facilities. CNN broadcasts news around the clock. Amra Hotel is the first hotel in Jordan to introduce this service to international businessmen who are interested in following up on world events. Commenting on the new service, Mr. Bishara, the hotel's general manager said that introducing the CNN channel comes as a great step to ensure that the best services are provided to the hotel's clients of businessmen.

PNC seen heading towards accepting peace conference

Arafat praises Bush's statement, seeks clear 'yes' from PNC

Combined agency dispatches

ALGIERS — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has asked the Palestine National Council (PNC) to give a clear "yes" to the U.S.-sponsored peace conference even if Washington cannot meet all its original demands, delegates said Friday.

One Palestinian official told Reuters that already a majority favoured dropping a demand that the United States give the PLO a guarantee that Palestinians in the occupied territories would enjoy the right to self-determination. The PLO would downgrade this to an "objective" which the Palestinians would take to the conference, the official added.

The PNC, also appeared to be heading towards flexibility on Palestinian representation at the talks, one of the main obstacles in U.S. efforts to bring Israelis and Arabs together.

Conference sources said the parliament would say only that the Palestinian delegates should be designated through the PLO.

The PLO has previously insisted that it must appoint and name delegates but Israel says it will not take part if the sponsors, Washington and Moscow, allow the PLO any role at all.

Bassem Abu Sharif, a political adviser to Mr. Arafat and prominent moderate, said, "I can say the PLO will definitely find a proper formula to make it impossible for (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir to stop the peace process."

"This is an ongoing process. We cannot deal with every issue before we go into negotiations. Otherwise why should we go to the conference?" he told a news conference Friday.

Mr. Arafat praised U.S. President George Bush Friday for a "courageous stand" in endorsing the concept of Palestine political rights.

Earlier Friday, Mr. Arafat read out to his advisers a document drafted two years ago, the first "republican decree" he issued as president of the state of Palestine.

The public reminder of who controls the drive for a homeland appeared intended to quell grow-

ing discontent over compromises the movement's leaders are reported to have accepted to enable convening the peace conference.

Mr. Abu Sharif told reporters that the PLO Executive Committee was dealing with the composition of a Palestinian delegation to the talks, but that nothing had been decided yet.

Asked if designating the team meant the PLO would publicly announce it, possibly breaking an Israeli condition that the PLO not participate in the talks, Mr. Abu Sharif said, "that is a different thing."

Mr. Abu Sharif urged the Israeli government to stop building Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, calling it a "very important

preparatory step to building confidence."

"Mr. Shamir is trying to put obstacles to direct attention from the essential point, which is ending occupation," Mr. Abu Sharif said.

"But the PLO will definitely find the proper formula to make it impossible for Mr. Shamir to prevent Palestinians from attending the peace conference," he continued.

In his speech, Mr. Arafat praised Mr. Bush for comments relayed through Morocco's King Hassan II that appeared to be a significant change in previous

(Continued on page 5)

Baghdad impasse continues despite signs of compromise

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A team of U.N. weapons inspectors bedded down on buses for a fourth night of confinement in a Baghdad parking lot on Friday as darkness fell on the capital.

Despite a Security Council agreement late Thursday to an Iraqi proposal that raised hopes of an early end to their ordeal, the day passed in limbo with no movement on the ground.

Team leader David Kay said Iraqi officials, who have the team penned in with security officers and a roadblock across the only exit, had expressed "a complete lack of knowledge" of what had been agreed in New York Thursday evening.

The 44-member group has been trapped in the rear yard of a Baghdad office building since Tuesday morning when it seized what it says are key documents on Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

The Iraqi proposal accepted by the Security Council said the team would be freed once a joint inventory of all the documents and videotapes made of the group's surprise search had been completed and signed.

But no effort was made on Friday to carry out the inventory. U.N. colleagues ferried in supplies and water to the group during the day from the team's nearby hotel.

One U.N. official pointed out that Friday was the weekly day of rest, when the generally slow-moving bureaucracy did not usually stir at all.

"I wouldn't expect them to come out tonight," he added.

The multi-national group includes one woman.

The dispute has put in doubt the arrival of a ballistic missile inspection team, due in Baghdad Sunday.

Under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire, Iraq must declare and destroy all its weapons of mass destruction — nuclear, biological, chemical and ballistic. Iraq and the U.N. are also at

loggerheads over the use of their own helicopters by the ballistic missile teams, who have already aborted one mission to inspect launch sites in the west of the country from where Scud missiles were fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war.

In New York, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said on Friday Iraq was risking further conflict by not complying with Security Council resolutions to cooperate with the weapons inspectors.

The 45-member group which arrived on Sunday is the largest team of inspectors yet sent to Iraq. One man did not go on Tuesday's early morning mission to a records office opposite the group's hotel because of sickness.

The leader of the 21-member ballistic missile team due this Sunday said on Friday in Bahrain, field headquarters for the weapon inspection missions: "We may postpone our departure."

A visit by a 70-member chemical weapon inspection team is also scheduled for early October to make an exhaustive inspection of the Muthanna site near Baghdad where chemical weapon destructions are planned.

A previous inspection team described the Muthanna facility as a "chemical dustbin."

Mr. Hurd, speaking in New York with British radio, said Iraq may be delaying the release for a day or two, but he added that Iraq risks conflict if it does not cooperate.

If Iraq "were to dig in and take action against U.N. teams and refuse to comply, (it) knows very well that (it) will be made to comply," Mr. Hurd said.

Under the Iraqi plan, inspectors will keep the documents, photographs and videotapes while they and Iraqi authorities catalog the evidence, diplomats said.

Iraq had initially demanded that the team relinquish the documents, but the inspectors refused.

On Thursday, the Security Council said it "deplores Iraq's repeated violations of its obligations" under U.N. resolutions demanding its cooperation with the destruction of its weapons.

A statement said the council "reiterates its demand that the inspectors... be released immediately," but did not object to "a joint inventory of documents and materials" in this particular case.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission charged with disposing of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, estimated it would take less than 24 hours to catalog the evidence.

To pressure Iraq to comply with U.N. resolutions ending the Gulf war, U.S. forces are being sent to neighbouring Saudi Arabia. The United States on Wednesday began moving Patriot anti-missile units to the Gulf in case the Security Council orders military escorts for U.N. teams searching Iraq.

Speaking to reporters, U.S. President George Bush sounded clearly prepared to use military force if diplomacy fails.

"Whatever happens, (Iraq is) going to comply. That's the point," he said. "We are prepared to do whatever it takes to enforce the resolutions."

The New York Times reported in its Friday editions that the White House halted plans to send attack helicopters and warplanes to Saudi Arabia after the Saudi defence minister told Washington he saw no need for more weaponry to be sent to the kingdom.

Asked about the report, Mr. Bush said, "We haven't changed any plans. We have a plan. Stay with the plan."

The newspaper also said General Joseph Hoar, the new Chief of the U.S. Central Command, had received presidential authority to begin drawing up a list of targets in Iraq should Mr. Bush decide to order punitive air

would cut over 20 per cent of the existing U.S.-Soviet arsenals of more than 22,000 nuclear warheads.

The officials said they were not sure of the future of MX missiles in underground silos, but that the administration would no longer press Congress on the controversial issue of mounting them on rail carriages.

The Senate had already voted 67-33 on Thursday night to kill \$225 million requested by the administration to go ahead with the "rail-garrison" plan to mobilise the big weapons and make them invulnerable to attack.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Bush's prime-time address from the Oval Office, only his sixth since taking office, would mark "an historic turning point in our national defence posture."

Shamir rules out Hussein and Ashrawi in peace talks

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Friday ruled out a role in Middle East peace talks for two Palestinian leaders who could face prosecution for allegedly attending an Alger session of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

Israel has said it will not attend a U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace conference unless it can veto Palestinian representation at the talks.

Asked if he would consent to U.S. leaders meeting the two, Hanan Ashrawi and Faisal Al Hussein, Mr. Shamir said: "That's an American issue... but it is clear in advance that these people will not represent anyone in the negotiations."

Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Hussein led Palestinian delegations which met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in occupied Jerusalem during his seven peace missions to the Middle East this year.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sources said the two addressed the PNC on Thursday in Algiers, where they were said by delegates to have urged the meeting to back the U.S. plan.

Mr. Hussein and Dr. Ashrawi denied they were at the conference.

"We didn't (leave) the United Kingdom at all during the last

days. I and Hanan cannot be in two places at the same time," Mr. Hussein told Israel Radio Friday (see page 2).

Israeli authorities have said they will prosecute anyone who attends the PNC meeting under a law barring contact with members of the PLO. The PNC is the decision-making body of the PLO.

Mr. Shamir said participation by the two Palestinian leaders from the Israeli-occupied territories at the PNC meeting would not affect peace talks.

"I don't think this influences the peace process. It influences... the authorities' treatment of these people because in such a case it will be clear that they violated the law."

The prime minister denied reports that the U.S. pressured Israel to allow the two to attend the meeting.

Both Mr. Hussein and Dr. Ashrawi are residents of Arab East Jerusalem.

Mr. Shamir refuses to negotiate at any peace conference with East Jerusalem residents.

Many prominent Palestinian activists in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip live in East Jerusalem.

Dr. Ashrawi told Reuters she and Mr. Hussein would travel to Washington soon.

Soviet president voices concern over ethnic strife

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev said Friday he expects the remaining Soviet republics to sign an economic cooperation treaty in the first 10 days of October.

Mr. Gorbachev, in a joint press conference with visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, also expressed concern about strife in some corners of the country.

The Soviet president gave no precise date for when he expected the economic agreement to be signed, but said he hopes it would be in "the first 10 days of October" during a meeting of republic prime ministers in the Kazakhstan capital of Alma Ata.

Officials from the 12 republics are working to resolve their differences, he said.

Mr. Gorbachev expressed concern about ethnic strife in Georgia and the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in the Caucasus and about public protests over the reinstatement of a Communist Party stalwart as president of the Central Asian Republic of Tadzhikistan.

He denied accusation by Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia that the Kremlin was behind a mounting opposition movement in the republic.

"This is not realistic, not factual," he said, repeating several times that "the situation is worsening" in Georgia.

"I think that President Gamsakhurdia and his opponents ought to exert the maximum goodwill" to peacefully resolve their conflict, he said.

Mr. Gorbachev endorsed

efforts by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev to broker a truce in Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave inside Azerbaijan.

"But unfortunately I read in the newspapers today that there was more shooting, that five people were killed. That's not just permissible," Mr. Gorbachev said.

"There are forces who do not want the conflict to end," he said. He was referring to renewed fighting in the mountainous region which broke out after the tentative peace agreement was reached on Monday.

While not directly criticising the parliament of Tadzhikistan for reinstating Communist leader Rakhman Nabiyev and declaring a state of emergency, Mr. Gorbachev said "each republic must understand the need to continue democratic development."

Mr. Nabiyev, who was ousted several months after Mr. Gorbachev became Kremlin leader in 1985, was reinstated on Monday. He replaced acting President Kadriddin Aslonov, who tried to abolish the Communist Party.

The republics of the Ukraine and Kazakhstan are backing away from earlier offers to hand over to the Russian republic nuclear missiles stationed on their territory, a senior Russian official said.

"The situation is changing. Previously they said: Come and take them. Now they say: Let us

(Continued on page 5)

DFLP row resolved

NICOSIA (R) — The headline section of the divided Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said Friday it had solved a dispute on who should represent the group on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee. A statement faxed to Reuters from the Damascus-based DFLP said an agreement was reached Thursday with the chairman of the Executive Committee, Yasser Arafat, that the "DFLP is the legitimate front led by its secretary general Nayer Hawatmeh." The DFLP, which has 12 seats in the Palestine National Council (PNC), currently meeting in Algiers to decide whether or not to take part in a Middle East peace conference, broke into two independent groups earlier this month. Yasser Abed Rabbo, who represents the DFLP at the PLO Executive Committee, leads the Tunis-based moderate breakaway wing of the DFLP. The statement said it had also been agreed that Mr. Hawatmeh was the one who would name the DFLP representative to the PLO Executive Committee and that Mr. Abed Rabbo would join the executive committee as an independent. It said the agreement had been reached with the PLO Executive Committee in the presence of Mr. Arafat, Mr. Hawatmeh and several of his aides and a large number of PNC members.

Ensour meets Baker and other counterparts at U.N.

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour Thursday held a series of meetings with his counterparts taking part in the 46th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Dr. Ensour discussed with his German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher the latest developments in the Middle East and ongoing peace process in the region as well as bilateral relations.

He also met with the foreign ministers of Canada, Cuba and Romania.

Dr. Ensour earlier met with American Secretary of State James Baker and discussed with him the latest developments in the region and efforts to convene a peace conference in October.

He held meetings with the foreign ministers of Spain, Australia, Austria, Greece, Luxembourg, Portugal, Senegal, Tunisia and Colombia.

He also met with the prime minister of New Zealand and discussed with him the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

Dr. Ensour also attended a working dinner hosted by Arab League Secretary General Emad Abdul Maguid in honour of the Arab foreign ministers attending the General Assembly session.

On Wednesday, Dr. Ensour met with the foreign ministers of Bangladesh, Iran, Albania, India, Norway and Finland.

In a telephone interview with Al Ra'i, Dr. Ensour said that the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan held a preliminary meeting on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly meetings.

The four ministers discussed the U.S.-led efforts to convene a peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and Arab coordination ahead of the proposed conference. The four ministers also discussed the date and venue for another meeting which will be held at the foreign ministers level. The meeting will be attended by Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whose representative did not attend the preliminary Arab meeting since he was taking part in the Palestine National Council meetings held in Algiers.

His 45-minute meeting with Secretary Baker, Dr. Ensour said, was good and provided an opportunity to review the ongoing peace efforts. He added that he and Mr. Baker also discussed the letter of guarantees Jordan has requested before convening the peace conference.

Dr. Ensour also said that Arab foreign ministers will meet Saturday to discuss issues on the agenda of the U.N. General Assembly and crystallise pan-Arabs stands vis-a-vis these issues.

Gorbachev: Mideast peace parley on track

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Friday he still hoped a Middle East peace conference could start in October and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said the proposed Arab-Israeli talks could last two years.

Mr. Gorbachev told reporters after meeting Mr. Mubarak in the Kremlin that October remained a realistic target for the conference despite "some doubts" that had arisen in recent weeks. He did not elaborate.

"We are acting on the basis of precisely such a time-scale," Mr. Gorbachev said. "I think this process is so essential, and we have come so close to it, that all sides understand their responsibility and are taking steps."

Mr. Mubarak, the first Arab leader to visit Moscow since last month's failed communist coup, warned that the peace talks may be arduous.

"Of course it is hard to expect that success will be achieved in a day or a week. The negotiations could continue a year or two years," the Egyptian president said.

"The important thing, however, is to strive to continue the negotiating process so that these peace efforts may lead to peace in the region."

The Soviet Union, effectively shorn of its superpower status by political and economic crises at home, has a vital stake in the

Middle East peace process. The proposed conference offers Moscow an opportunity to rekindle its influence in the region, where its closest Arab ally until the Gulf war was Iraq.

Mr. Gorbachev said he and Mr. Mubarak also discussed bilateral issues including ways of boosting trade. The Egyptian leader, who arrived on Thursday, was due to fly home later after his brief working visit.

Mr. Gorbachev said Moscow welcomed the readiness of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates to offer it financial and trade credits.

"Already there are certain steps being taken and we welcome that. It meets the interests of both sides and for us it is very necessary," he said.

Former President Jimmy Carter says the peace process in the Middle East hinges of Israeli settlement-building on the West Bank.

"The continued building of settlements on the West Bank is the single most difficult obstacle to overcome. (Continued building) is almost proof that peace negotiations will not be successful," Mr. Carter said Thursday after a speech to an audience of about 2,000 people at Goucher College in Baltimore.

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Ashrawi, Hussein deny attending PNC meeting in Algiers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian leader Hanan Ashrawi, threatened with prosecution by Israel if she defied a ban on contacting the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), denied she went to Algiers for the Palestinian National Council (PNC) conference.

PLO sources said Thursday afternoon that Dr. Ashrawi and Faisal al Hussein, who have been go-betweens between Washington and the PLO, had left Algiers after speaking at a PNC session.

The sources said they were going to Washington to brief U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the (PNC) meeting, called to decide whether Palestinians should take part in Middle East peace talks tentatively planned for next month.

At 2315 GMT on Thursday, Reuters correspondent Colleen Siegel telephoned a London hotel and spoke to a woman she identified as Dr. Ashrawi.

Here are the main extracts of their conversation:

Q: Are you denying your were in Algiers?

A: Yes. I have been denying the story, both Faisal and I have been denying the story.

Q: Where have you been for the last two days?

A: We've been in England. We haven't left the U.K. We have a lot of work to do and it's all related to the peace process.

Q: Do you have any way to corroborate where you were in the last two days?

A: Listen, if we are placed on trial then we will have to present evidence, but I hope we aren't

going to be put on trial by the press.

Q: Are you going to Washington?

A: We are going to Washington, but we haven't decided when yet.

In Algiers PLO sources said Mr. Hussein and Dr. Ashrawi, who have seen Mr. Baker on most of his seven missions to the Middle East this year, urged a divided PNC to go along with the U.S. plan for talks.

Officials said they received a warm welcome, even from delegates who disagree with them on the peace conference.

Israel's defence ministry said in a statement: "If it becomes clear that people from (the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip participated in the Palestine National Council the steps dictated by law will be taken against them."

In August, Mr. Hussein, Dr. Ashrawi, and Zakaria al Agha, the Palestinian team that has met Mr. Baker on his peace shuttles, consulted on peace efforts with PLO officials in London.

Israeli police interrogated them on their return and said they would decide later whether to lay charges.

Dr. Ashrawi, a sharp witted, articulate professor of English, is emerging as a leading voice of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

A week ago she left her West Bank home in the middle of the night and crossed into Jordan for hastily-arranged talks with Mr. Baker. He delayed his departure from Amman to see her.

She flew to London from Amman.

In an interview broadcast on



Hanan Ashrawi

Israel Radio Friday, Mr. Hussein also flatly denied that either he or Dr. Ashrawi was in Algiers.

"You know that we were in London and we are now in London," he told Israel Radio. "We didn't leave the U.K. at all during the last days. And I can't and Hanan can't be in two places at the same time. We were in England."

On Thursday, police spokesman Uzi Sandor, responding to reports that Mr. Hussein and Dr. Ashrawi were in Algiers, told the Associated Press: "If they were there, we will call them in for questioning and we will investigate."

Israel does not hesitate to prosecute under the statute. Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan served a jail sentence last year after he was convicted for meeting with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

Dr. Ashrawi, who is expected to travel from London to Washington this weekend.

Such talks would "hurt the effort to convene a peace conference," the diplomat reportedly told Mr. Baker's delegation to the United Nations in New York.

Mr. Hussein was quoted by Israeli Radio as saying the warning to Mr. Baker suggested Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was trying to back out of the peace conference.

Meanwhile, the Hebrew daily Yedioth Ahronoth said Friday that Israeli diplomats have warned Mr. Baker against meeting with Mr. Hussein and Dr. Ashrawi, who are expected to travel from London to Washington this weekend.

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Faisal al Hussein

political damage before prosecuting the two, told Reuters: "If we have to consider other things, we will consider them."

Israel insist the U.S. exclude the PLO from any talks and refuses to speak to Palestinians affiliated with the PLO.

Mr. Hussein and Mr. Ashrawi insist in meeting with Mr. Baker that the PLO is the Palestinians' sole representative.

"They are in daily contact with the PLO. Everybody knows the PLO is being represented by Hussein and Ashrawi," said opposition parliament member Dedi Zucker. "Only some (government) ministers pretend they do not."

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U.N. agency hopes for 'voluntary repatriation' of stranded Somalis

By A Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The recent flare-up in factional fighting in Somalia has delayed the departure home of Somali nationals stranded in Jordan since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. The international agency offering them help remains hopeful that the situation would clear itself soon so that it could go ahead with their "voluntary repatriation" after their application to joint families in Britain has been turned down by the British government.

Seventy-six Somali nationals remained in Jordan as of Thursday, having sought the help of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to find asylum in a third country as soon as they arrived in Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In addition, 19 Iraqis are also in Jordan awaiting UNHCR help. Some of the Iraqi refugees have already been granted political asylum in Scandinavia and Canada, while others' cases are being processed, according to Javideh de Riedmatten, chief of the UNHCR mission in Jordan.

In the case of the Somalis, whether from the south or north, the order of President Mohammad Siad Barre earlier this year has removed the main reason for their quest for political asylum abroad.

"We have reached the conclusion that voluntary repatriation is the only viable option for the Somalis," said Mr. Riedmatten. However, since the situation in Somalia is unclear the departure of the Somalis — of those who accept to return home — has been delayed.

"We are hopeful that passage for the Somalis could be arranged soon," Mr. Riedmatten said. But, he reaffirmed, "we will not send anyone anywhere without his or her explicit consent."

Under UNHCR criterion, most of the stranded third country nationals in Jordan — except the Iraqis — are "persons of concern" rather than refugees. "A formal 'refugee' status is granted only after the concerned person can prove that he or she stands 'individual persecu-

tion" at home.

Most of the northern Somalis remaining in Jordan had applied to the British government for permission to join relatives in Britain, but the applications were turned down on the ground that the relatives were not immediate family members and that the relationship was not close enough.

That leaves them no alternative but to return home, particularly that most of them are from the Isaaq clan whose members form the core of the Somali National Movement, which took over northern Somalia after the ouster of Mr. Siad Barre and proclaimed an independent republic in the north.

The destination of the northern Somalis is the port of Berbera in the north. However, it was not immediately known how many of the northern Somalis are willing to accept the "voluntary repatriation."

For southern Somalis, some of whom still argue that their lives will be under threat if they returned home, the situation remains unclear, especially after the recent factional fighting in Mogadishu.

Some of the southern Somalis and Iraqis have staged hunger-strikes at the Andalus transit camp, where they are accommodated, to support their demand for UNHCR action to find them refuge.

But, said Mr. Riedmatten, such actions do not help since it is not in UNHCR hands to decide where the refugees go.

"We are trying our best to help everyone, but it is up to the various governments to decide whether or not to accept them," he said.

Twelve Ethiopians also remain in Jordan. But their request for political asylum in a third country is no longer valid after rebels overthrew the regime of dictator Haile Mengistu Mariam in May.

These have legal permits to stay in Jordan, but the UNHCR will have to step in and help them to return home as and when the validity of the permits expire. However, they already possess Sudanese documents, having been granted asylum in Sudan, and UNHCR's role is limited to ensuring that they are returned to Sudan.

Proposed Mideast arms deal splits Belgian government

BRUSSELS (AP) — Political negotiations intensified Friday to heal a split along linguistic lines within Prime Minister Wilfried Martens' centre-left government over \$300-million arms sales to the Middle East.

"It is still possible to find a solution," said Justice Minister Melchior Wathelet after a Friday morning meeting of the cabinet that was extended into the afternoon.

The dispute, which has lingered for weeks, was widely seen as jeopardising the government. Two of Mr. Martens' Dutch-speaking coalition partners are opposing arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other Mideast countries after the Gulf war.

But two Francophone coalition parties want the sales approved to safeguard the arms industry in Wallonia, Belgium's French-speaking southern half.

The have said they will oppose a \$1 billion government telecommunications contract that would

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-soldiers of Ethiopia need help

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopian Red Cross officials appealed Thursday for 20,000 tonnes of emergency food aid and \$12 million cash to help nearly 250,000 former soldiers of the toppled government of dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam. Neway Zera Johannes, secretary-general of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), said tens of thousands of disbanded soldiers had gone home without registering for food aid and were no turning up at distribution centres hoping for hand-outs. He told reporters that the ERCS and the International Committee of the Red Cross had appealed successfully for aid for some 250,000 former soldiers — but the actual number of people in need had turned out to be double that. "A very high number of ex-servicemen without ration cards turn up at distribution centres and are refused relief assistance," Mr. Neway said, adding this was causing tensions and in some cases violence. He cited one case in Arsi region where the distribution centre had to be closed after being overwhelmed by former soldiers without ration cards. Col. Mengistu's army, once the largest in Africa, collapsed after a rebel onslaught in May. One rebel group took over in Addis Ababa and has since called in other political groups to form a broad-based transitional government. Another rebel group took control in the northern province of Eritrea. The provisional government in Eritrea denied it was to blame for the slow passage of famine relief aid and other goods through the Eritrean port of Asab. More than seven million people face severe food shortages in Ethiopia this year. The bulk of aid for them comes through Asab.

Malta conference to discuss Mideast peace

ROME (R) — Some 250 religious and political leaders will gather in Malta next month to promote peace in the Middle East. "This is a gathering of Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders that would have been unthinkable three years ago," Mario Marazziti, spokesman for the Italian religious community sponsoring the Oct. 8-10 meeting, told a news conference. The conference hopes to overcome centuries of mistrust and hostility among the Middle East's major religions to promote discussions towards regional peace. "The Gulf war confirmed the need to end misunderstanding and conflict between religions," Mr. Marazziti said. Among those expected to attend the gathering, called "Religions for a Sea of Peace," are the grand muftis of Egypt and Syria, the chief rabbi of Haifa, and Catholic bishops and patriarchs from several countries in the region. Polish Cardinal Josef Glemp and representatives of smaller faiths ranging from Shinto to Zoroastrianism are also expected to attend. Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, Albanian Prime Minister Ylli Bufi and Portuguese President Mario Soares are also expected. The Community of Sant'Agido, which is hosting the conference, has been mediating peace talks between the Mozambican government and rebels.

Turkish soldier, 2 Kurdish rebels killed

ANKARA (R) — Two separatist Kurdish rebels and a Turkish soldier were killed Friday in a clash in southeast Turkey, the Anatolian news agency reported. The gunbattle with guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) occurred near a phosphate plant near the town of Maziç in Mardin province, it said. Two soldiers were wounded in another clash with PKK fighters near Midyat town in the same province, it added. Officials could not immediately confirm the casualties. More than 3,300 people have been killed in the mainly Kurdish southeast since the PKK launched a guerrilla war for an independent Kurdish state in the region in 1984.

Former hostage Mann relishes his freedom

LONDON (AP) — Freed hostage Jack Mann is still frail from his 28 months in captivity in Beirut, but his spirits are surprisingly high, officials said. Mr. Mann, 77, relished his freedom and chatted with his wife Summe, 73, who is staying with him at a royal air force base at Lyneham 150 kilometres west of London, in the same VIP suite used by journalist John McCarthy after he was freed Aug. 8. The former battle of Britain Spitfire pilot began his first uninterrupted day of freedom since his release Tuesday with a full English breakfast. Then Mr. Mann's top priorities were a haircut, a visit to the base dentist, new glasses and ordering a new wristwatch to replace the one stolen by his captors, according to base staff. TUN Middle East correspondent Brent Sadler, who helped Mrs. Mann write a book about her agonising waiting for her husband's release, visited the couple. "They are continually chatting — almost like a honeymoon couple. It's wonderful to see," he said. Mr. Mann also spoke on the telephone with Prime Minister John Major, who pronounced him "in very good heart."

UNHCR helps Iranians return from Iraq

GENEVA (AP) — The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is to repatriate more than 10,000 Iranian Kurds who fled to Iraq, some as long ago as 1979. A UNHCR official, Ekber Memenecioğlu, said Friday that about 400 refugees would leave Iraq's Al Tash refugee camp for reception centres in Iran on Saturday. The remaining volunteers would follow over the next two months. He said it was the first large-scale repatriation of Iranian refugees organised by the United Nations and followed delicate negotiations with the Iranian and Iraqi governments. An estimated 30,000 Iranians of Kurdish origin currently live in the Al Tash camp and more than 10,000 have said they want to return to their homeland under the UNHCR programme. Mr. Memenecioğlu said a further 13,000 had returned independently from Al Tash to Iran in recent months. Some had been killed en route by mines planted along the Iran-Iraq border during the eight-year war between the two countries. The camp is situated to the west of Baghdad. It houses almost all the Iranian Kurds who fled to Iraq following a failed 1979 uprising against the Tehran government and during the Iran-Iraq conflict, when many Kurdish villages along the border were destroyed. The war ended in 1988. Mr. Memenecioğlu said the negotiations about the repatriation effort had only just been concluded because of difficulties in getting Baghdad and Tehran to agree to cross-border movements. He said the problem of finding a safe passage through the minefields had further complicated the task.

U.N. inspection team dominated by Americans

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.N. inspection team in Baghdad is top-heavy with Americans, many of them officials from the Defence and Energy departments, U.S. officials said.

The group's investigation of Iraq's nuclear weapons programme has been based in large measure on information from at least two "defectors" and from U.S. reconnaissance photographs and electronic monitoring, said the officials.

The 27 Americans on the 44-member team, assembled by the U.N.-affiliated International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were picked for their expertise in nuclear bomb-making and Arab-English translating, the officials said.

Also on the team are two Australians, five Canadians, two Germans, two Britons, three New Zealanders, and one person each from Syria, Egypt and Morocco.

Iraq argues that the preponderance of Americans violates the neutral nature of the United Nations and the IAEA.

Insisting the Americans are

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) spies, Iraq has refused for three days to allow the group to leave the parking lot outside the Iraqi Energy Commission building with several containers of documents.

"We wouldn't dignify the Iraqi allegations with a response," said CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield. U.S. officials concede, however, that the team has been supplied with intelligence information that led it to the cache of documents.

"The United States did have a fairly large role in saying where the team should go to look," said one official who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

One of the "defectors" who supplied U.S. officials with information is a young electrical engineer who studied abroad and was recruited to work for Iraq's nuclear programme last year, said another official.

The official said the engineer tipped off U.S. intelligence to a uranium enrichment programme. Another "defector" provided information about other aspects of the Iraqi programme, includ-

ing clues that led the team to the documents, the official said.

Administration officials, who have pored over hundreds of documents captured from Iraq during the Gulf war, are among the members of the team in Baghdad — there because they can read Arabic and understand the significance of documents the team uncovers.

Also on the team are scientists from U.S. government labs where the Department of Energy research and development of nuclear weapons.

Although Iraq's clandestine nuclear programme is believed to have been all but destroyed in the Gulf war, the documents are of great value for several reasons, the officials said:

— They list names of Iraqis involved, making it easier to monitor any attempt to resume the programme.

— They provide names of foreign companies that sold Iraq thousands of components.

— They provide information about links between the nuclear programme and other facilities, making it possible to close down

offensive operations under U.N. ceasefire resolutions.

Iraq's information minister accused U.S. and Israeli intelligence services Wednesday of killing two Iraqi nuclear scientists and an Egyptian 10 years ago to thwart Iraq's nuclear research.

"The American intelligence and the (Israeli) Mossad committed criminal acts including assassination, kidnapping and terrorism against Iraqi and Arab scientists... to prevent Iraq and other Arab countries acquire modern technology," Hamed Yousef Humadi told the Iraqi News Agency.

The minister was commenting on the standoff between U.N. nuclear weapons inspectors and Baghdad over access to files.

The minister said the files were "personal files of those who work in the Iraqi Nuclear Commission and the Ministry of Industry."

Mr. Humadi said the first "martyr" was the Egyptian scientist Yehia Al Mashad, who specialised in nuclear reactor engineering and was killed in Paris in 1980. He did not say if the Egyptian scientist was working for Iraq.

Khartoum also has contributed to Sudan's misery. Besides discouraging enterprise, Mr. Machmer said Sudan is so far in arrears in debt repayments to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that the IMF take the unprecedented step of expelling the country from its membership.

The Sudan, he said, has been steadily losing international support because of actions such as its backing of Iraq in the Gulf war and the communist hardliners who tried to stage a coup in the Soviet Union last month.

Sudan's international support is now limited to Libya, Iran, Iraq, Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Starvation in Sudan claims thousands — U.S. official

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tens of thousands of Sudanese are believed to have died of starvation in recent months while countless others cling to life on a diet of wild grass, a U.S. official said Thursday.

Rick Machmer, the chief U.S. foreign aid representative in Sudan, said predictions of even higher death tolls, however, do not take into account the ability of the Sudanese to survive on the meagre of diets.

Sudanese in the hard-hit western region have been able to survive on wild grass, "just pulling it out of the ground," Mr. Machmer said in an interview.

"It's a terrible existence. It barely keeps them alive but they

don't die," he said.

Another factor in preventing an even worse disaster was Sudan's ability, despite scarce resources, to import 600,000 tonnes of food this year, much higher than relief experts had predicted, he said.

The food was allocated largely to government supporters in urban areas, he added.

Millions of Sudanese lives are at risk elsewhere because of food shortages but conditions could ease when the November harvest comes in," Mr. Machmer said.

On the other hand, the possibility of an escalation in Sudan's civil war could prevent relief flights from reaching the southern part of the country, which is highly dependent on outside help

for its food needs.

"It's an intense military area and you can't just go out and plant the harvest," Mr. Machmer said.

The combination of drought and the civil war, in which the north has been fighting the south, has created famine conditions in Sudan which are unparalleled elsewhere in the world.

The United States has tried to fill the food gap in the Sudan with a 331,000-tonne commitment this year — the largest U.S. programme anywhere — but scarcity persists because deliveries by the European Community have been slower than expected, he said.

Mr. Machmer asserted that misrule by the government in

Khartoum also has contributed to Sudan's misery.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ... Le Chevalier de Labyrinth
18:30 ... Thalassa
19:00 ... News in French
19:15 ... Carant de Notes
19:30 ... News in Hebrew
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Totally Hidden VI
21:00 ... Encounter
21:30 ... Classical Music
22:00 ... News in English
22:25 ... Feature film "Barbed Wire"

PRAYER TIMES

05:05 ... Fajr
06:23 ... (Sunrise) Duha
12:26 ... Dhur
15:51 ... 'Asr
18:30 ... Maghrib
19:47 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740
Archbishops of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 67440
De la Salle Church Tel. 601757

Terraviva Church Tel. 622266
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 711751
Armenian International Church Tel. 603526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be relatively hot and windy with northeasterly moderate to fresh, causing dust in desert areas. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly moderate to fresh winds and calm seas.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman ... 21 / 31
Aqaba ... 25 / 36
Deserts ... 20 / 35
Jordan Valley ... 24 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman

32, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hisham Kassar ... 790286
Dr. Jamil Maraga ... 770446
Dr. Wael Kharrabi ... 669917
Dr. HANNA MARSOUR 7483168
First pharmacy ... 778336
Fardous pharmacy ... 637055
Naitrouth pharmacy ... 623672
Al Salam pharmacy ... 630730
Yacoub pharmacy ... 644945
Shurafat pharmacy ... 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Hilou ... (—)
Al Shams' pharmacy ... (75025)

ZAKA:

Dr. Zaid Ja'atim ... (—)
Khalifah pharmacy ... 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ... 637111
Civil Defence Department ... 611111
Civil Defence Emergency ... 630341
Rescue Police ... 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade ... 801228
Blood Bank ... 775221
Highway Police ... 845402
Traffic Police ... 896390
Public Security Department ... 63021
Police Complaints ... 605800
Price Complaints ... 661176
Water and Sewerage ... 897467
Complaints ... 896390
Autism Municipality ... 787111
Complaints ... 787111

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs ... 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs ... 661101
Jordan Television ... 771111
Jordan Radio ... 774111
Water Authority ... 680100
Electricity Authority ... 815615
Jordan Power ... 636281
RJ Flight Information ... 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport ... 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre ... 813813/32
Khaliq Maternity, J. Amn ... 644281/6
Al-Bah Maternity, J. Amn ... 640412/2
Mallat, J. Amman ... 636140
Palestine, Shamsat ... 664171/4
Shamsat Hospital ... 669131

International conference on fertilisers to be held in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the Arab Potash Company (APC) will organise an international conference on fertilisers in October to discuss means of developing the fertiliser industry in the country with the help of foreign expertise.

At least 50 Indian industrialists and experts will attend the five-day meeting, according to a statement by the JPMC.

JPMC Director General Wasef Azar said that the meeting, which is held every two years, aims to bolster cooperation between Jordanian and Indian experts to promote the development of the fertiliser industry through the utilisation of phosphate and potash mines in Jordan.

The Indian experts will submit a number of working papers and will make field trips to fertiliser plants as well as the JPMC and the APC plants in southern Jordan, he said.

India is the largest market for Jordan's potash and fertiliser.

ers and industry sources here said that Jordan and India are about to conclude a final agreement to launch a project designed to produce phosphoric acid in the Kingdom.

They said that the agreement entails setting up a plant near Shidieh in Jordan to produce 200,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid annually by the year 1995.

The project is expected to offer employment to about 150 skilled and non-skilled Jordanians. Industry sources say that there is a large market for phosphoric acid in many countries and Jordan was best placed to house plants to manufacture the acid in view of the edge the Kingdom enjoys in terms of freight to markets in the Far East and the abundance of the raw material in the country.

According to the JPMC statement, the meeting to open here on Oct. 6 is to review 15 working papers to be submitted by Indian and Jordanian specialists.



CHARITY AFFAIR — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday opened the second annual bazaar of the Promise Welfare Society, held at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. Proceeds from the bazaar benefit the poor and needy in Jordan. The bazaar includes handmade items, embroidery, flowers, silverware, copperware, colour glass, clothes, bamboo and wooden items. Also attending the bazaar were Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal, Princess Ghaida, a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors and a number of invitees. Also Thursday, Queen Noor opened Um Qais Resthouse in the northern part of Jordan where a tourist village will be established at that archaeological site. She was received by Tourism Minister Abdul Karim Al Kaharid, who said that the cost of the resthouse was JD 45,000.

History society awards King and Crown Prince medals

AMMAN (Petra) — Mustafa Abdul Odeh Al Najjar, Secretary General of the Arab Historians Union, Friday praised His Majesty King Hussein's pan-Arab stands and his leading role in reformulating Arab history.

In a statement he made to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, prior to his departure to Baghdad, Dr. Najjar said the AHU's general secretariat decided to award King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Arab History's Golden Medal in appreciation of their distinguished role in shaping contemporary Arab history.

Dr. Najjar headed a delegation of Arab historians on a weeklong tour which took them to Jordan, Mauritania and Morocco.

Talking about the outcome of his tour, he said that he agreed with historians he saw during his tour on holding three international conferences on Arab history. The first will be held at Kullalampore University in Tanzania in cooperation with the Arab Historians Association. It will discuss the role of Arabs and Muslims in transferring Arab and Islamic culture to South East Asia.

The second will be held at Aden University in Yemen next February to discuss Arab heritage.

The third will be held next year in Seville Spain.

The conference will discuss the role of Arabs in transferring science to Europe.

Dr. Najjar noted with appreciation Prince Hassan's offer to print the latest issue of the Arab Historian magazine at his own expense. The Arab-Historian Union has 12,000 members.



Hashem Khreisat

Journalism symposium to review press role in war

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Association (JPA), in cooperation with the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ), will open a three-day symposium at the Amman Plaza Hotel Saturday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

A total of 40 prominent journalists representing 25 press organisations from around the world, together with Jordanian journalists, are taking part in the symposium entitled "Press Coverage in Wartime," according to JPA President Hashem Khreisat.

The symposium will focus attention on two important elements: objectivity and the role of journalists, said Mr. Khreisat at a press conference held Thursday.

He said many working papers will be reviewed during the coming symposium, providing information about news coverage during armed conflicts, difficulties encountered by journalists in the course of such coverage, dangerous situations such as imprisonment, injuries and repression journalists face while conducting their work along with censorship of the news reports.

IOJ Secretary General Girard Gatino, who is taking part in the symposium, told the press conference that his organisation has an essential duty to take care of journalists professionally and socially. The journalistic profession is a grave responsibility and the IOJ has a special duty in this regard, he said.

A total of 260,000 journalists belonging to 196 unions in 93 countries around the world are IOJ members and they are all concerned with the question of news coverage, especially during wartime, Mr. Gatino said.

Journalists are doing a great job in today's modern coverage for radio, television or the press and the IOJ feels it is its duty to arrange for measures that would ensure protection for journalists under any circumstances, Mr. Gatino added.

Population conference calls on government to initiate various measures to address problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — A conference on population in Jordan and its basic needs between 1991 and 2005 has ended with the participants issuing a set of recommendations tackling health, water, food and social services for the population of Jordan in the coming 15 years.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, who presided over the meetings, voiced appreciation to the U.N. Population Fund and other participants for their efforts at the conference and expressed hope that the recommendations would be put into practice to meet the Kingdom's population needs.

According to the conference's statement, the participants called on concerned authorities to give more attention to the education

of children at the nursery and kindergarten level and to offer teachers sufficient incentives to carry out their duties. They called for the development of secondary school, community college and university education to meet local needs and urged universities to upgrade scientific research.

They also called on Ministry of Education to step up efforts to reduce the illiteracy rate in Jordan to 8 per cent by the end of the present century, down from 19 per cent at present.

The participants want the government to create incentives for the private sector so that it can carry out projects in the rural regions to stem migration to urban areas and cities, therefore helping alleviate the unemployment problem in the country.

They also called on the government to offer soft loans and credit facilities to cooperative societies and residents of rural regions to initiate projects.

In the water and food security field, the participants called for immediate programmes for the efficient use of water resources.

They also urged the government to establish a national water network stretching from the Syrian border in the north to the Dail Water Basin in the southeast part of the country and the recycling of treated water for industry and agriculture.

The participants urged the government to resort to modern technology to help desalinate sea water to obtain sufficient water for the southern regions.

UNRWA commission holds meeting, Jordanian official urges agency to step up services to Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — The advisory commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which held its first meeting ever in Amman Thursday, is touring Palestinian refugee camps today to inspect services to residents and to examine vocational training offered to the trainees.

The 10-member commission meeting presided over by UNRWA Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen has reviewed the agency's 1992-93 budget and a draft report which the commissioner plans to submit to the United Nations General Assembly about UNRWA's operations between July 1990 and June 1991.

Addressing Thursday's meeting, Adel Irshaid, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Palestinian Affairs, spoke in detail about the plight of the Palestinian refugees under Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Speaking on behalf of the countries hosting refugees — Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt — Mr. Irshaid said that the re-

fugee issue constitutes the crux of the Palestine question and the UNRWA commissioner ought to include in his report a demand from the world community to work towards the repatriation or compensation of these refugees.

Arab countries hosting the refugees, he said, shoulder heavy financial burdens in caring for them but the commissioner's draft report barely touched on this issue.

In view of the very serious circumstances in the Arab region in the wake of the Gulf crisis, UNRWA ought to prepare a budget that would take into consideration the real needs of the

Palestinian refugees and submit the budget to the world community so that it can ensure sufficient assistance, Mr. Irshaid said.

The time has come for Mr. Turkmen to urge the U.N. General Assembly to implement its own earlier resolutions concerning the distribution of food rations to the refugees and not to restrict such aid to the very needy alone, Mr. Irshaid said.

He added that the agency should also cut down on unnecessary expenses and increase allocations for services on schools and education as well as health and social services to the refugees.

Jordan, Cyprus exchange documents

NICOSIA (Petra) — Jordan and Cyprus Thursday exchanged documents of ratification of the Cultural and Scientific Cooperation Agreement concluded between both countries. Exchanging the documents for the Jordanian government was its ambassador to Cyprus, Samir Khalifa, while it was exchanged for the Cypriot side by the Foreign Ministry's Cultural Department director. Under the agreement, both countries will exchange visits by officials and cooperate on educational radio and television programmes.

Jordan, Libya reach agreement on cooperation in health fields

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Libya will sign minutes of deliberations today over bilateral cooperation in health fields following two days of meetings between official delegations from the two countries.

Libya's side to the talks was led by visiting Minister of Health Zeidan Bader Zeidan and the Jordanian side was led by Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi. Both ministers were received by Prime Minister Taher Masri, who was briefed on the initial agreements reached in the talks designed to promote cooperation in health fields and in the pharmaceutical industry.

The subject of integration between Libya and Jordan in health sectors, the exchange of visits by health experts and workers, Libya's institutions benefiting from Jordanian expertise and providing them with Jordanian doctors and technicians were discussed at the meeting, according to an official statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said that the two sides reviewed an earlier protocol which provided for Jordanian doctors to work in Libya and to provide Jordanian expertise for Libyan health institutions.

The question of providing Jordanian medicines and medical equipment, Libya's benefiting from Jordan's facilities in medicine control and



Jordanian and Libyan officials hold talks on cooperation in health and pharmaceutical fields. The two sides will today sign an agreement on cooperation in these fields (Petra photo)

training of personnel and the question of registration of medicines and their distribution in Libya and Jordan were also discussed at the meeting.

The Libyan side voiced willingness to enlist the services of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to carry out maintenance and repair work to health, medical and electro-mechanical equipment and to train Libyan technicians, according to the statement.

The two sides, it said, discussed means of cooperation in spreading health education and in adopting unified curricula in the teaching of medicine in either country.

The two sides agreed to set up a joint technical committee to take charge of following up the implementation of the agreements.

Following the meeting, Dr. Abbadi described the talks as positive, constructive and

frank. He said that the employment of Jordanian doctors in Libya figured prominently in the talks. Dr. Zeidan said that the talks were fruitful and constructive.

The two sides agreed that Jordanian doctors be given priority over others in employment in Libyan hospitals and health centres. He said preference will also be given to Jordanian pharmaceutical industries in Libyan markets.

American war veterans end protest at U.S. embassy

By Nur Sati Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Eight American war veterans campaigning against the policy of the Bush Administration in the Middle East Friday ended a 48-hour sit-in in front of the American embassy demanding an end to the sanctions imposed against Iraq.

Holding banners which read "Children Dying, Hear Them Crying. Stop Sanctions," the veterans said they hoped to send a symbolic message to the U.S. government through the American embassy.

"We would like to see the U.S. government permit the entry of medicine to Iraq," said Phil Roettinger, a retired colonel who quit the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in protest against American covert activities in Latin America.

Mr. Roettinger, 75, who is also a World War II veteran, said that the group was getting "zero, no response" from the embassy. Two low-level officials from the mission met with representatives of the group who entered the embassy, but, according to Mr. Roettinger, "it was the same old line. (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein is responsible for these children dying, not the United States and Saddam could stop it at any time by just stepping down."

At a time when demonstrations and protests related to the Gulf crisis have all but died down in Jordan, the American veterans' vigil in front of the U.S. embassy caught many passers-by by surprise.

Dozens of people were seen stopping by to chat with the group and to express solidarity and appreciation for its efforts.

The group, calling itself the 1991 Veterans' Delegation to the Middle East, is not affiliated with any political party or ideology, said Brian Wilson, an ex-captain in the U.S. Army who fought in Vietnam.

"We are ashamed of the policy of our government," Mr. Wilson said.

The group is currently in Jordan after a visit to the

Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in a bid to "know more about the Palestinian question, the history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the role Jordan has played throughout these years."

"We are not happy representing any organisation," said Mr. Wilson. "We want to get more acquainted with issues pertaining to the Middle East region so we can go back to the United States and be better strugglers for peace there."

Mr. Wilson has been a long-time peace activist and lost both his legs when a U.S. munitions train ran over them when he was protesting against Washington's policies in Central America.

The group spent 10 days in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem and was shocked to "observe the systematic, in-comprehensive brutality carried out by the Israeli occupation," Mr. Wilson said.

"Almost at every level the Israeli occupation mentality was evident — from routine harassment on the streets to long imprisonment and administrative detention, beatings and attitudes as racist if not more than our experience in the U.S. against blacks," he said.

The veterans hope to put together a collection of photographs of what they saw in the occupied territories and compile a video of their experience to be distributed to the American public.

"We want to express our concern, anguish, outrage and love for the people of the Middle East back in the U.S.," Mr. Wilson said. "In this way, we hope we will penetrate the consciousness of Americans."

For people to simplify their lives and commit themselves to waging unconditional peace through non-violent pursuit of justice, there must be a strong belief that the public can make a change, he said.

"We have to believe we can win. All of us have had military experience," added Mr. Roettinger. "We realised that this is not the way to live. If we are going to have human beings with a conscience of right and

wrong, (wars) have to stop and we have to convince people that they should not become inflamed by presidents or congress or what happens to be support for the killing of people."

Mr. Roettinger spoke of his experience in World War II, in the Solomon Islands and in the north of Australia and recounted how he left when he saw a picture of a small girl and a baby in the pocket of a Japanese soldier killed in action.

"Even today I feel so emotional about it," he said, adding that it was the turning point for him.

As with Mr. Roettinger, each member of the group has their own story to tell about what increased their resolve to continue risking their lives for the sake of a peaceful world.

Mr. Wilson remembers how he fought in Vietnam as an Air Force lieutenant in charge of protecting airplanes which were bombing villages.

"When I saw what the bombs were doing to the Vietnamese people, I was shocked and had to oppose the bombing," he said.

Being an officer, to oppose bombing while guarding the planes would have been considered as treason, and so "I simply stated to my superiors that what we were doing violated all international standards of decency and international law as well as the Hague and Geneva conventions."

Ever since then, Mr. Wilson has been speaking out against war and U.S. policy.

Mr. Wilson also recalled how he lost his legs in a protest against American arms supplies to the government in El Salvador and the Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

A group of activists decided to block a train carrying ammunition from California to be shipped to Latin America, Mr. Wilson said.

"We had given them 10 days notice (that a group of us would be protesting non-violently) and again we told them on the same day the train left that we were beginning our blockade," he said.

The train, he continued, has

a speed limit of five miles an hour at that particular location. It has two spotters to make sure the tracks are clear because the train was carrying highly explosive munition. "When the blocked the railroad at noon (the time the train departed), it was a bright, sunny day. The train had plenty of visibility and we knew we would be arrested and taken to prison."

"Instead," he said, his speech slower as he remembered, "... the train accelerated to what the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) later said was 17 miles an hour and ran into us. I went under the train and it took both my legs and a piece of my skull was pushed into my brain. I am actually missing part of my right frontal lobe. I have a plastic skull and artificial legs."

"Since then, I have actively worked for developing the world solidarity for order based on world justice. The train incident deepened my resolve to promote unconditional peace through non-violence and take risks that are necessary to promote change," Mr. Wilson said.

Another member of the group's John Schuchardt, who made headlines during the Gulf war when he shouted at President George Bush at a church in protest against the American military involvement in the Middle East.

Mr. Schuchardt, a former captain in the U.S. Army and now an activist against the American arms build-up, was prosecuted and jailed for a few days.

Other members in the group are Mark Birnbaum, a former U.S. army intelligence sergeant in Vietnam, Rick Droz, a former U.S. Marine Corps member, William Kelsey, former ensign with the U.S. Navy, Lawrence Egbert, a former Lt. commander with the U.S. Navy and Ellen Barfield, a former sergeant with the U.S. Army.

The veterans are awaiting Iraqi visas to visit the war-torn country and to see for themselves the actual state of affairs there in the aftermath of the war.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Omar Beal at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by Charles Foster-Hall at the British Council.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture by Dr. Gunter Dreyer, 2nd director at the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo, on "The Royal Tombs of Abydos" at the Goethe Institute — 7 p.m.

Iraqi artists to be featured

AMMAN (J.T.) — A plastic art exhibition by Iraqi artists Mohammad Hussein Judi and Sahib Al Yasiri will be opened next Saturday at Alia Art Gallery by Culture and Information Minister Khalid Al Karaki.

Mr. Judi, born in Kufa in 1939, is a specialist in copper plate designs. He received a degree in arts from the Higher Academy of Arts in Budapest and was a teacher at the Traditional Handicrafts and Industries Institute in Baghdad.

His partner in the exhibition, Mr. Yasiri, graduated from the Ceramics Department of the Baghdad Fine Arts Institute in 1977, and was then appointed chairman of the Iraqi Ceramics Society for a five-year term.

He depicts the past and the present combined in a modern style. One can find a reference in his works to Iraqi traditions.

The exhibition will last for ten days and will be open to the public between 10 a.m. till 7 p.m.

Queen opens centres

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will open three social development centres Saturday in Maan Governorate. The centres were set up by the General Union of Voluntary Societies in the governorate in cooperation with the Industrial Development Bank. These centres are Maan Special Education Centre, al Qaa Social Development Centre and Al Ikhaa Society for Social Development.

Olympic soccer team returns

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Olympic soccer team returned to Amman from Bahrain Friday after taking part in the qualifying matches of Group C in Asia, which grouped besides Jordan the olympic teams of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Sri Lanka. Bahrain qualified for the finals of Asia after topping the group's standings with 4 points, followed by Saudi Arabia and Jordan which also had four points in the final standings. The Bahraini team had the score difference in its advantage since only one team was to qualify in the group. The Jordanian team played

three matches, won two of them and lost one. It defeated the Saudi team 2-1 and the Sri Lanka 7-0 but lost to Bahrain 0-4. Jordan's captain, Hisham Abdul Munem, won the trophy for the highest scorer in the tournament after scoring four goals, three against Sri Lanka and one against Saudi Arabia.

Official receives Libyan delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Ministry Secretary General Saleh Khasawneh Thursday received a Libyan industrial delegation currently on a visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian industrialists on means of promoting and enhancing industrial relations. Dr. Khasawneh discussed with the delegation Libya's requirements of Jordanian labour force and voiced the ministry's readiness to provide help in according with Libya's needs. He noted that the ministry will be ready to provide assistance, once Libya identifies its labour force needs, specifies the required qualifications, years of experience and terms of employment. He added that a Libyan technical committee will soon be visiting Jordan to meet with Jordanians wishing to work in Libya.

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11

Deviations, ingratitude and the \$10 billion question

By Dr. Bassam Saket

EVER since the establishment of Israel on Palestinian soil in 1948, it has been seen as a small state, democratic and looking for peace with its Arab neighbours. Yet, during the past two decades, there appeared to us in the region, and to observers outside, that as the Arabs move forward towards peace, Israel has been inversely shifting its intentions and hardening its position, to become more intransigent.

Ever since its creation as a political entity, Jordan opted and cherished peace and worked for it. With the moderating influence of His Majesty King Hussein, the Arabs accepted peace and coexistence with Israel despite the antagonising shadow and memory of losing land to Israel in 1948 and 1967.

In the aftermath of 1967 war, Israel claimed that once the Arabs accepted and recognised its existence, occupied land could be returned to its rightful Arab owners. Fearing to lose face, pride and dignity, and declining to accept defeat, Arab countries refused to recognise Israel before having her relinquish the spoils of war. Israel, on the other hand, banked on such state of the Arab mind and continued colonising the occupied territories, home to 1.7 million Palestinians.

Under the pretext of housing Jewish "refugees" from the Soviet Union, Europe and Ethiopia, Arab lands have been expropriated, people harassed and their human rights infringed, measures in complete contrast to Israeli claims of democracy and respect for human rights. The annual State Department report on the status of human rights around the world is the best testimony to such unadmitted violations.

To strengthen its grip on occupied Arab lands, Israel claimed those lands as safeguards from possible Arab invasion — whereas military strategists as well as the recent experience of the Gulf war have clearly showed geography to be no longer a source of security for nations; long-range rockets and other weapons can go beyond borders and reach far away targets. Yet, Israeli leaders claim they are more knowledgeable than their close friends and protectors in the U.S. and Europe.

In their march towards peace and moderation, Arab and Palestinian leaders at summit meetings have shown their acceptance of Israel and asked, in return the implementation of international legality in Palestine. Yet, paradoxically, Israel fears and refuses to accept the resolutions of the United Nations, the very institution that offered Israel the certificate of birth at its early inception on Arab lands.

Once Israel realised that its claims to Arab lands did not stand to security tests and modern warfare experiences, neither did they stand to international legitimacy, it started in motion another process of deviation by claiming that Soviet Jews are "refugees" and need lands for settling them. This pretext does not hold water, having the following in mind:

— These Jews are not "refugees" but "immigrants." They were not forcefully kicked out of the Soviet Union.

— They have not been given alternative routes and destinations of their own choice.

— They are not ideologically attached to Israel but only people seeking a betterment to their life. Once given freedom of choice, they would seek alternative destinations other than Israel.

Currently, in the aftermath of the Gulf war, the U.S. pledged to carry out a peace process to solve the Palestinian-Israeli and the Arab-Israeli disputes. In his March 6, 1991 speech in the U.S. Congress, President George Bush pointed out the region's source of pain, i.e. lands occupied by Israel and its people deprived of their human rights — a source of continued violation of international legitimacy and conflict in the region.

Jordan, together with other Arab states, accepted the U.S. wishes and considered them positive steps particularly as they are coming from America, the benefactor, supporter and protector of Israel. By contrast, the Israeli leadership, realising the seriousness

of the U.S., Europe and Arab countries towards peace and that it would entail relinquishing spoils of war, started a customary Israeli mechanism for deviation and escapism.

The present dispute between the U.S. president and Israel over the \$10 billion loan guarantees, to colonise Arab lands, clearly demonstrates how Israel wants the funds and denies its benefactor any right to question the use of such huge sums. It also shows how a small country mocks its protector.

Israel claims those huge sums are for the private sector in Israel; they are for humanitarian uses on refugees and not for housing on occupied Arab lands. In practical terms and over the past 24 years of Israeli military rule over the occupied Arab lands, U.S. tax payers funds have been generating almost 40 per cent of Israel's national income and also financing the gradual and creeping annexation of Arab territories. Economists know the ABC of liquid funds' use. Money is fungible. Population is also fungible. If Israel gave promises to its U.S. benefactor that aid would neither be used to expropriate Arab lands nor for settling Soviet Jewish immigrants, experience has shown these promises impractical, fake and deceiving. Only dumb politicians take them at face value. U.S. funds handed over to the Israeli socialist administration can free other Israeli funds for colonising the occupied lands. By the same token promises to limit settling immigrants to areas inside Israel, would not forbid other Israeli settlers moving in the occupied territories — the home of 1.7 million Palestinian Arabs.

Furthermore, it is equally absurd to claim that the \$10 billion is for humanitarian reasons as they have been used for expropriating occupied lands, building military roads, supplementing over 40 per cent of Israel's military spending, injuring and killing Palestinian children and deporting the indigenous people of the occupied territories. How on earth could one believe Israel's claims that these funds are for humanitarian ends? How could this make the U.N. formula of peace for land workable? It will, certainly, subvert it. The "construction" of Israeli colonies on Arab lands is tantamount to "destruction" of both the U.N. and the U.S. values. Crimes that were committed on Jews are surprisingly committed by the Israelis on Palestinians. How could anyone name the following practices humanitarian or democratic: deportations, land expropriations, daily shooting of teenagers and Housing Minister Sharon's concept of transferring Palestinians to Jordan away from their ancestors' land? One wonders, within the framework of the new international order, whether the U.S. would continue tolerating, permitting and covering up Israel's violations. One would also wonder whether freezing the Israeli colonisation process and putting on hold the \$10 billion loan guarantee, would fall into what Mr. Baker once called "confidence building measures."

International and Israeli press had reported how the president of the United States is called a liar, a demagogue and an anti-Semite by a member of the Israeli cabinet only because the president and his team intend to delay guaranteeing the loan to Israel, an amount equal to \$40,000 for every household of four immigrants coming to Israel. This is, in fact, a corollary of past U.S. administration's misreading of foreign policy and a sheer ingratitude, on the part of Israel. What makes us deeply concerned is to have seen some U.S. congressmen, the supposedly informed, the supposed guardians of the American revolution, values and heritage, standing at odds with a U.S. president fighting for safeguarding his country's interests and upholding human values and international legality. Not only do they stand at odds with their elected president, they also make the U.S. Congress lose its free will and become hostage to an outside client. We are wondering how a decent ordinary American would react and perceive his country's highest authorities as subservients to a tiny selfish partner?

near the television centre.

Opposition moderates denied there had been a full-scale attack and accused Mr. Kitovani of trying to spark an insurrection.

Leading moderates, including Mr. Notadze, would prefer to force the calling of a parliamentary session to consider their demands. These include press freedoms, the release of political prisoners and the return home of Gamsakhurdia supporters based in from the provinces.

Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin said Thursday his country needs direct assistance from the United States to survive the winter.

"We need help and assistance from the United States as a country in order to survive the winter and to solve all the problems concerning the transition" to a Western-style economy, Mr. Pankin said after a meeting with

Secretary of State James Baker. The Bush administration is providing humanitarian assistance, and the Agriculture Department increased guarantees for commercial bank loans to help the Soviets purchase grain and soybeans.

But President George Bush has made direct U.S. assistance conditional on the Soviets' revamping their economy.

In Tadzhikistan, democratic forces and Muslim leaders have declared a war of protests, strikes and outside pressure against

dictatorial communists who they say seized the republic in a coup. As chanting crowds grew outside the parliament building, opposition leaders told a news conference they would not let up until President Rakhman Nabiyev resigned and human rights were assured in the Central Asian republic.

PNC seen heading towards compromise

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. positions. An overwhelmingly majority of PNC members favoured taking part in the conference despite strong opposition from hardliners. Mr. Abu Sharif and other delegates said.

Mr. Arafat wants to find a formula that also has the support of the hardliners, who set the U.S. proposals on the conference as a sellout of Palestinian interests, the delegates added.

The hardliners are also reluctant to give the PLO Executive Committee, which Mr. Arafat chairs, a free hand in the complex negotiations likely to take place during preparations for the conference, which is tentatively scheduled for October.

These points were holding up the end of the parliamentary session, which opened on Monday and was to end on Friday.

Delegates forecast the meeting could last until early on Saturday with the election of a new PLO Executive Committee.

If Mr. Arafat fails to win consensus, he would settle for a simple majority vote, delegates said.

The main opposition comes from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by George Habash, who rejected the argument that the conference is a golden opportunity to salvage some of the Palestinian territory.

The hardline wing of the divided Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by Nayef Hawatmeh, is softening its position and could swing to Mr. Arafat's side, PLO sources said.

Mr. Arafat said he had asked King Hassan to approach the American president for clarification of the U.S. stance on the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Bush's response was that the United States supports "the political rights of the Palestinian people based on international legitimacy," Mr. Arafat said. It was the first time the United States referred to "political rights of the Palestinian people" rather than "legitimate rights of the Palestinians."

He told the council: "This is a courageous stand from Mr. Bush."

Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

strikes to force Iraq to comply with the resolutions.

Quoting unnamed sources in the Bush administration, the newspaper said that in halting major military movements, administration officials had disclosed that preparations for possible new military missions inside Iraq and bombing raids had been both advanced and extensive.

A helicopter base was being established in northeastern Saudi Arabia to support any U.N. helicopter searches inside Iraq, the New York Times said.

It said it was unclear what prompted the Saudi decision not to accept more U.S. warplanes but added that some officials suspected the Saudis were becoming increasingly uneasy with the heavy publicity about U.S. plans to deploy military units in Saudi Arabia.

Although there were signs of an end to the parking lot standoff, a related dispute on U.N. inspectors using helicopters in their task of hunting down Iraq's weapons of mass destruction was proving more difficult to solve.

Mr. Arafat did not mention in his speech newly relaxed Palestinian positions, which still must be accepted by the council and the PLO's Executive Committee.

The decree Mr. Arafat read, which he issued on Nov. 15, 1989, dealt with setting up a "national institution for civil affairs" to issue identity cards and such. The chairman noted that it was his first decree "after I was elected president of the Palestinian republic."

PLO officials said the decision to compromise was made after studying assurances from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker including a pledge to work towards a Palestinian homeland and to pressure Israel to halt construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The officials said PLO leaders decided to support a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace talks that includes Palestinians only from the occupied territories — a key Israeli demand.

The leaders also decided to allow Jordan or another Palestinian group to formally announce the participants, the officials said. Still, it is expected the PLO play a major role in choosing the delegates and setting their negotiation strategy.

In exchange for the concessions, the United States has assured the PLO that Palestinians would get equal footing with all

other parties and be recognised as a distinct group, the officials said.

The United States also guaranteed its backing of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under a three-year timetable, rather than the five-year plan outlined in the 1978 Camp David accords, the sources said.

The United States has been trying for months to bridge the gap between Israel and the Palestinians over representation at the proposed peace conference.

Israel has said it will not agree to participants from Arab East Jerusalem.

Mr. Bush, when told the PLO seemed excited by the remarks attributed to him, said there was no departure from previous U.S. positions.

"Maybe they are trying to be helpful. I hope so," he said during a state dinner for the Moroccan monarch Thursday.

An Arafat aide described Mr. Bush's remarks as the first time a U.S. president had referred to the Palestinians as a people since Jimmy Carter left office in January 1981.

A senior PLO political expert said Mr. Bush had also told King Hassan that the conference would convene on the basis of "all U.N. Middle East-related resolutions and not just 242 and 338."

"This is fantastic...that means

the special resolutions on Jerusalem, the illegitimacy of Jewish settlements and the right of return or compensation" for expelled Palestinians "would be the basis for the conference, he said."

A senior PLO official close to Mr. Arafat said Mr. Bush had given the Palestinians something of what they wanted.

"You have to understand that President Bush has two audiences... in a way he is giving us something and at the same time does not want to appear before the Israelis as giving us too much."

The senior official said Mr. Baker gave Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian representative from the occupied territories, an assurance in Amman last week in writing saying "that Palestinians are a people."

"All reference to Palestinians in the first letter of assurances were changed in the Amman meeting to 'Palestinian people,'" he added.

He also said King Hassan had told the Palestinians that Mr. Bush had said "things that will help you."

Dr. Habash of the PFLP refused to comment on Mr. Bush's latest remarks. He is strongly opposed to the U.S. proposals.

"This is the last day of the PNC (meeting). Let's wait and see the outcome," he told Reuters by telephone.

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Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 25/9/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date 26/9/91
Sterling Pound	1.7355	1.7322
Deutsche Mark	1.6810	1.6841
Swiss Franc	1.4645	1.4656
French Franc	5.7270	5.7435
Japanese Yen	133.20	133.43
European Currency Unit	1.2185	1.2151

* USD Per ECU
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT
Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.40	5.40	5.55	5.75
Sterling Pound	10.56	10.25	10.00	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.12	9.06	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.00	7.93	7.93	7.81
French Franc	9.25	9.31	9.37	9.40
Japanese Yen	6.93	6.50	6.25	6.06
European Currency Unit	9.84	9.84	9.75	9.75

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	352.30	6.80	Silver	4.21	.095

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.687	.689
Sterling Pound	1.1904	1.1964
Deutsche Mark	.4082	.4102
Swiss Franc	.4688	.4711
French Franc	.1198	.1204
Japanese Yen	.5150	.5176
Dutch Guilder	.3622	.3640
Swedish Krona	.1118	.1124
Italian Lira	.0546	.0549
Belgian Franc	.01981	.01991

* Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7650	1.7700
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0775
Saudi Riyal	.1828	.1837
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1861	.1874
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7200	1.7300
UAE Dirham	.1861	.1874
Greek Drachma	.3650	.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4600	1.4700

* Per 100

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	24/9/91	Close	25/9/91	Close
All-Share	119.32		119.89	
Banking Sector	99.73		100.55	
Insurance Sector	120.84		120.89	
Industry Sector	149.21		149.41	
Services Sector	127.08		127.09	

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7290/7300	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1354/59	Canadian dollar	
	1.6848/55	Deutsche marks	
	1.8960/90	Dutch guilders	
	1.4670/80	Swiss francs	
	34.72/76	Belgian francs	
	5.7450/7500	French francs	
	1259/1260	Italian lire	
	133.80/80	Japanese yen	
	6.1500/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.5925/75	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4975/5025	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	348.80/349.20	U.S. dollars	

U.S. envoy calls for cuts in Third World military spending

GENEVA (R) — U.S. Ambassador Morris Abram told developing countries Thursday they could help meet their own needs for capital by cutting back on military spending and checking corruption.

In a speech to a meeting of UNCTAD, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Mr. Abram also urged poorer nations to look to market-oriented reform to attract foreign investment and strengthen their economies.

"As to the future, it is axiomatic that sustained growth — for a country or a firm — requires capital, intelligent investment including education, and wise reinvestment of returns," the one-time U.S. human rights lawyer said.

"Where is the initial capital to come from? We all know the poorest countries are not awash in spare capital, although there may be some cases where shifts from consumption spending to investment are possible," he pointed out.

"Unnecessary military spending immediately comes to mind. Developing countries as a group spend some five per cent of their national incomes on armed forces — some \$160 billion a year — or about three times the level of aid flows," he added.

Mr. Abram, the United States' permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva, has long been a critic of the management of UNCTAD, established in 1964 to promote world trade and especially that of developing

countries. Western diplomats argue the organization had over the past 20 years allowed itself to become involved in the East-West ideological struggle which has now ended with the collapse of communist rule.

They say that many UNCTAD officials promoted the "socialist" economic policies of the former Soviet Bloc because anti-Western rhetoric from the then communist countries matched their own negative view of the developed world.

Mr. Abram said the changes in eastern Europe together with reforms and a reemergence of market-oriented economic policies in Africa, Latin America and much of Asia meant UNCTAD needed to change itself.

U.S. forgives Honduran debt

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a show of support for Honduras' economic reform programme, the Bush administration Thursday forgave \$431 million of that country's official debt to the United States.

Speaking at a State Department signing ceremony, Honduran President Rafael Callejas expressed gratitude for the U.S. gesture, saying it was equivalent to 18 months' income for each Honduran.

Since taking office almost two years ago, Mr. Callejas has moved to put the country on a sounder economic footing through currency devaluation and reduction of tariff barriers, among other measures.

Debt relief is one of the incentives President Bush is offering to Latin American countries in return for taking politically risky economic reform measures.

According to U.S. estimates, the \$431 million in debt relief constitutes 15 per cent of Honduras' overall debt and 55 per cent of the government's total debt to foreign countries.

Honduras was a close but sometimes reluctant political and military ally of the United States during the upheavals in Central America during the 1980s. Among other actions, Honduras allowed the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan Contra rebels to use its territory as a staging area for attacks against Nicaragua's leftist government.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gelbard said the debt relief agreement adds a new dimension to U.S.-Honduran relations.

New Zealand eases monetary policy

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's central bank has eased monetary policy saying lower than expected inflation meant interest rates and the New Zealand dollar could afford to fall.

Reserve Bank of New Zealand Governor Don Brash, in an announcement that sent the stock market soaring and the New Zealand dollar and interest rates tumbling, said inflation was falling too quickly.

An opinion poll published this week shows the New Zealand conservative government's popularity at its lowest since it took office 11 months ago. Harsh economic policy is blamed.

"The bank now believes there is a good chance that underlying inflation will fall to around two per cent this year ... into a range of one to 1.5 per cent next year. Both of these outcomes would be below the bottom end of indicative inflation ranges the bank outlawed," Mr. Brash said.

He said there was room for further easing in interest rates and the exchange rate without jeopardising the government's target of zero to two per cent inflation by the end of 1993.

Economists said the Reserve Bank's action could give a much-needed boost to New Zealand industry.

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Sept. 22-25	Sept. 14-18
Daily average	JD 409,823	JD 392,283
Total volume	JD 1,639,292	JD 2,961,414
Total shares	1,189,488	1,682,265
No. of contracts	1,639	2,515

Sectoral trading:

Industrial	JD 578,212 (33.6%)	JD 1,554,469 (52.5%)
Financial	JD 405,499 (24.7%)	JD 939,528 (31.4%)
Service	(19.2%)	(13.3%)
Insurance	(2.5%)	(3.8%)
Share price index	138.5	138.9
No. of companies	77	75
Price movement (rise)	26	23
(Decline)	32	42
(Stable)	19	9

Contacts continue between Jordan, U.S. over search of ships bound for Aqaba

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Means to ease the adverse consequences for Jordan of the enforcement of the international trade embargo on Iraq were not raised during the visit last week of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, but the Jordanian government is involved in a dialogue with American officials on the issue, according to informed sources.

"The enforcement of the blockade on Iraq is continuing as normal on the Red Sea, but nothing spectacular has happened in the last 10 days," said one of the sources.

Shipping sources in Aqaba told the Jordan Times no ship was recently turned away from docking at the Red Sea port, but on-board inspection of cargo was continuing, led by American warships patrolling the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba.

The government has made repeated representations to the U.S. government to ease the difficulties posed by the enforcers of the blockade who turn away ships they suspect of carrying goods bound for Iraq since mid-August 1990.

During his earlier visits, Mr. Baker promised to look into the affair. A set of guidelines were drawn up and agreed by Jordanian importers earlier this year, but, according to shipping sources, these guidelines were not fully adhered to.

Various reasons were given for the lapse. Prominent among these was that the State Department had little influence in decisions of the Defence Department, under whose orders the American warships enforce the

blockade. Another given argument was that Jordan should address the United Nations Security Council, which imposed the international embargo on Iraq following the Aug. 2, 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Whatever the reason, said a shipping source, "the fact remains that Jordanian importers are paying a high price for the overzealous enforcement of the blockade at the Aqaba."

The blockade appeared to have been turned stricter since June, when elaborate documents and details were demanded by the enforcers to prove that the goods were intended for consumption in Jordan.

Hundreds of vessels have been turned away from Aqaba since August last year, adding to the troubles of Jordanian importers who had to pay higher insurance and freight costs for transshipment.

A standard procedure for most shipping lines — those which have not stopped sailing to Aqaba — now is to designate the Jordanian port as the last port of discharge — thus making it easier for on-board physical inspection of cargo and shipping documents.

American navy officers usually conduct the inspection, according to sources in Aqaba. "At least four warships — belong to the U.S., France, Britain and another country (any one of the anti-Iraq coalition) — converge on the commercial vessel which has been ordered to stop," said one source.

"The warships' take positions around the target vessel and it is usually the Americans who go aboard while others keep guard,"

according to the source.

The inspectors refuse Aqaba-bound cargo if the shipping manifest and related documents indicate the consignee's name as including the terms "and Sons" or "an Partners" or "Trading Agencies," apparently arguing that companies with such names could include Iraqis as partners and the goods are destined for Iraq.

The naval inspectors also insist that the shipping documents include the full street address of the consignee.

In recent days, after an intense campaign by the shipping and clearance sector, Jordanian importers are fulfilling all these conditions.

The U.S. embassy here declined comment on the contacts between Jordanian and American officials over the issue.

A report prepared by the shipping sector and submitted to the Ministry of Industry and Trade recently put at \$48.5 million the extra shipping costs incurred by Jordanian importers since the imposition of the blockade at Aqaba. The amount only involves the extra freight and insurance costs paid by the importers for bringing the cargo into Aqaba from other ports where the goods were discharged by ships which were turned away from docking at the Jordanian port.

"Not included in the report are the production losses suffered by Jordanian manufacturing industries," said an informed source. "The industries had to suspend production awaiting the arrival of raw materials and spare parts and this has caused considerable losses," he explained.

The report was requested by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Saudi oil policy seeks poor welfare

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia says its oil policy seeks to protect developing countries from sudden price rises or taxes imposed by the industrial world.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Thursday quoted Oil Minister Faisal bin Abdulaziz as saying King Fahd did not want to see developing countries in Asia and Africa suffer due to an "abrupt rise in oil prices or taxes that could be imposed by industrial countries

on it for one reason or another."

Oil ministers of the 13-nation group agreed to pump oil almost flat out for the rest of the year, abandoning individual output quotas to meet expected strong demand.

Sheikh Nazer said Saudi Arabia's action in raising output at the beginning of the Gulf crisis

last year to make up for production lost for Iraq and Kuwait had prevented a severe world economic crisis that would have hit developing countries hardest.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, is currently pumping around 8.4 million barrels per day.



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Despite gunfire, Yugoslav army pullback lifts hopes for peace

ZAGREB (R) — Sporadic shooting erupted overnight in the Yugoslav Republics of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina but peace hopes were boosted by the federal army's withdrawal from a key Croatian frontline town.

Belgrade television said Croatian forces had launched a "frontal attack" on an army barracks in Vukovar in eastern Croatia Thursday evening, but gave no casualty figures.

Tanjug News Agency reported automatic gunfire in the village of Jasenica in south east Bosnia-Herzegovina, an ethnically mixed area where tensions are running high. It said tracer bullets lit the sky but also mentioned no casualties.

Croatian Radio said three children and an old man were killed when rival Serbs fired mortar bombs Thursday at the town of Dreznik-Grad in western Croatia. It reported sporadic mortar fire overnight in Osijek in eastern Croatia.

Hopes of solving the conflict, which began when Serbs in Croatia rebelled against Croatian independence moves in June,

were raised by the resumption of a European Community peace conference on Yugoslavia in the Hague Thursday.

The army's pullback from a besieged barracks in the eastern Croatian town of Vinkovci, after repeated but abortive efforts to relieve it, indicated that the army may no longer feel it can crush the republic's National Guard at will.

"The army overstretched itself," a diplomat said. "It may have decided to pull out of exposed positions in Croatia, like Zagreb and other towns and villages."

Croatia blockaded army bases across its territory in the fighting and says it seized 70 barracks. It says the army must leave the republic as a precondition for peace.

Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic said in a television interview Thursday the warring parties knew that a shaky ceasefire which took effect Sunday was Yugoslavia's last chance for peace.

Gen. Kadijevic said he and

Presidents Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia agreed at a meeting Wednesday on measures to shore up the ceasefire, lift the blockade of army barracks, and establish lasting peace.

"We will see very quickly if the things we agreed on actually hold in practice," Gen. Kadijevic said, without detailing the measures. "If this does not happen, all three of us agreed that there would be no conditions for a peaceful solution of the Yugoslav crisis," he added.

The rival forces in Croatia have not yet disengaged and the ceasefire has been severely strained by dozens of violations. Fighting continued Thursday south east of Zagreb, in western Croatia and on the Adriatic coast in southern Croatia.

Gen. Kadijevic said a United Nations arms embargo Wednesday came too late to prevent civil war.

"It would have been good if this decision had been taken earlier and implemented. Then we would not have these paramilitary formations and civil war in

Yugoslavia," he said.

He was referring to defence forces set up by the republics. The agreement for the 400-man army garrison to leave Vinkovci came after Gen. Kadijevic's meeting with the Croatian and Serbian presidents.

They met after fierce fighting in Vinkovci earlier this week threatened to destroy the ceasefire.

The army also agreed another partial pullout, from the Mostar region in the volatile Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina where fears of an explosive ethnic conflict have been growing.

Croatia's Foreign Minister, Zvonimir Separovic, called Thursday for an economic blockade of Serbia and the Yugoslav military as a means of forcing an end to three months of bloodshed.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, Mr. Separovic said he received a "good reply" from Mr. Eagleburger to his suggestion but he did not elaborate further.



Emperor Akihito

Akihito stresses peace pledge in Thailand

BANGKOK (R) — Emperor Akihito, on a peace mission to South East Asia, visited Thailand's War Memorial Friday and repeated assurances that Japan would not revert to militarism.

Emperor Akihito, on his first overseas trip since taking office, laid a wreath and observed a minute's silence in front of the Victory Monument in Bangkok honouring Thailand's war dead.

The emperor, accompanied by Empress Michiko, arrived in Thailand Thursday, their first stop on an 11-day tour that includes visits to Malaysia and Indonesia. Akihito is the first Japanese monarch to visit South East Asia, where memories of Japan's brutal military rule up to 1945 are still vivid.

In talks with Thai Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun, Emperor Akihito referred to a pledge he made Thursday that a peace-loving Japan would "never repeat the horrors of that most unfortunate war," a palace aide said.

"The prime minister thanked the emperor for bringing his message of peace... and the emperor referred to the unfortunate past again," the aide told reporters.

Emperor Akihito commented for the first time on Japan's military misdeeds in South East Asia but stopped short of an explicit apology at a welcoming banquet Thursday hosted by Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Japan's imperial armies advanced through East and South East Asia in the name of Emperor Hirohito, Emperor Akihito's late father. Many Asians still bitterly resent that brutal rule, which resulted in the deaths of millions.

In the meeting, Mr. Anand urged Japan to step up economic cooperation and direct investment in Thailand, said Kiyoshi Sumiya, the palace's grand master of ceremonies.

The prime minister said that Thailand expects Japan to play a leading role (in the region), Mr. Sumiya said.

Japan, which in World War II forced Thailand to allow its troops free passage during its sweep through the region, is now Bangkok's biggest trading partner and main foreign investor. Mr. Anand, head of the military-installed government since last February's coup, thanked Emperor Akihito for choosing Thailand for his first foreign visit after ascending the throne on his father's death in January, 1989.

Dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed on Zaire capital

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) — The embattled government of President Mobutu Sese Seko has declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Kinshasa and adopted an emergency plan to get provisions to the ransacked capital.

"Famine is threatening," Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said Thursday after four days of military-led rioting that ravaged the capital and may have claimed up to 100 lives.

A Belgium-based relief organisation, Doctors Without Borders, said its team in Kinshasa counted 40 dead people in two hospitals Wednesday night. But its Brussels-based spokesman, Dr. Pierre Harze, said the team estimated about 100 people had actually died.

He said that 1,250 to 1,750 people had been injured in rioting Monday and Tuesday led by Zairean troops, who took to the streets after not receiving their pay. That led to wider anti-government unrest.

Authorities dispersed several hundred demonstrators marching on the Belgian embassy "in an extremely violent fashion," injuring several people Thursday, Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said.

The British Broadcasting Corp. said Mr. Mobutu's troops fired on demonstrators in the capital, but did not report casualties.

France and Belgium, which sent hundreds of troops to Zaire to assist in the evacuation of their citizens, reiterated calls Wednesday for Mr. Mobutu, who has ruled Zaire for 26 years, to move toward multiparty democracy.

French and Belgian troops have moved into Zaire's heartland as thousands of foreigners fled the central African country with tales of looting and unchecked violence.

Opposition leaders charged that Mr. Mobutu incited the troops to mutiny to provoke intervention by Western forces. Twice in the 1970s, Western troops intervened to keep Mr. Mobutu in power when dissident Zaireans attacked from Marxist-ruled Angola.

State-run Radio Zaire, monitored in neighbouring Congo, said unrest had spread to Kisangani, 1,200 kilometres northeast of the capital; Kanima, 1,200 kilometres east; Lubumbashi, 1,800 kilometres south; and Kolozi, a mining town to the

South East where Belgian and French forces arrived Wednesday.

The spread of riots across the nation revived fears of the factional violence in the 1960s after the end of colonial rule. The fighting by breakaway regions left hundreds of thousands of people dead.

On Wednesday, the Belgian government decided to send 500 more troops to Zaire to protect its nationals, joining 500 already there. France now has 900 troops in the nation.

About 280 French and Belgian paratroopers were dispatched to the southern mining city of Kolwezi.

A French military source in Brazzaville said, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 2,000 foreigners — most of them French, Belgian, American, Italian or Israeli — had been evacuated from Zaire by late Wednesday. Several hundred others fled south to Zambia, Zimbabwe or South Africa.

"There is nothing left in Kinshasa. All the stores have been pillaged, all the factories burned, all the villas owned by Europeans emptied," said Claude Ponsache, one of 241 evacuees who arrived Thursday in Paris.

Some Europeans who escaped the chaos told of killings, rape and looting by Zairean troops joined by civilians.

Gangs of armed Zairean soldiers threatened to shoot or stab foreign families unless they handed over cash after systematically sacking their homes, evacuees from two days of riots in Kinshasa said Thursday.

"They came into the house and stole everything. Then they threatened myself, my wife and three children with death three times," said construction firm manager Richard Slight, who arrived on one of the first evacuation flights to reach Belgium.

"When I say robbed, I mean there's nothing left," Mr. Slight said at the Neder-Over-Heembeek Military Hospital, the reception point for some 658 evacuees so far flown to Belgium.

"They took my shoes because they said I might have hidden money in them. They even looked under my wife's dress," he said.

U.S. may use troops to bar N.Korean nuclear project

SEOUL (R) — The United States and other world powers could use force to prevent North Korea from developing nuclear weapons, South Korean Defence Minister Lee Jong-Koo said Friday.

"The will of those countries equipped with nuclear weapons, to prevent North Korea from developing nuclear weapons, is now extremely strong," a parliamentary official quoted Mr. Lee as telling a National Assembly committee.

In the worst case like the situation in Iraq, we cannot ignore the possibility that (world powers) may take military actions," Mr. Lee was quoted as saying.

The official said Lee was referring to recent warnings by world leaders, including U.S. President George Bush, to Iraq not to interfere with unconditional international inspection of its weapons of mass destruction. Mr. Lee told the committee

North Korea would be able to produce enough plutonium to make half a dozen nuclear bombs as early as next year, the official said.

North Korea's nuclear programme, which Pyongyang says is purely for peaceful purposes, has caused serious concern among its neighbours and nations that fear the isolated Stalinist state is close to developing nuclear arms.

While Pyongyang has signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, it has refused to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities and has said the United States should allow inspection of its nuclear weapons in South Korea.

The United States as a matter of policy refuses to confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons at a specific site but has said Pyongyang's demand is peripheral to the issue of international inspection of North Korean facilities.

Salvadoreans welcome peace accord

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Salvadoreans have welcomed a U.N.-brokered accord that promises to end nearly 12 years of civil war. But expressions were subdued, underscoring a stoicism fostered by the long, brutal conflict, and fighting continued.

"I sense in the country a sort of suppressed joy, a joy mixed with incredulity and an anxiousness arising from the knowledge that we're reaching the culmination of the peace process," said Mons. Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary Roman Catholic Bishop of San Salvador.

More than 75,000 people — mostly civilians — have been killed in the fighting between the rebels and a succession of U.S.-backed Salvadorean governments.

President Alfredo Cristiani and the top commanders of the leftist guerrilla army Wednesday capped 10 days of negotiations at U.N. headquarters in New York with a momentous agreement.

The accord provides for purge and reduction of the armed forces, incorporation of insurgents into a new police force and the distribution of idle state-owned farmland to landless peasants.

Despite the signed peace pact, the bloodletting continued Thursday. Guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN, attacked army positions along the main north-south highway 24 kilometres north of the capital of San Salvador. Radio reports said three soldiers and eight rebels were wounded in the fighting.

Some far-rightist and military factions are adamantly opposed to having the rebels join the new police force.

The creation of the civilian-headed force would follow the dissolution of current militarised police corps now under the Defence Ministry.

Some politicians have expressed fears that recalcitrant element on the extreme right — both inside and outside — the military might attempt a coup in response to the accord.

But the first public response from a member of the army high command was positive.

"The whole Salvadorean people receives the accord with satisfaction, especially the members of the military, who live the war 24 hours a day. Perhaps we're the most satisfied of all," said Col. Carlos Hernandez, commander of the 5th Army Brigade.

Col. Herrarte also welcomed the rebels into the new police force.

"If they meet the conditions for joining, there's no problem. Because the FMLN is going to become part of civilised society," he said.

Fidel Chavez Menza, president of the centrist Christian Democratic Party, called the agreement "a very positive and encouraging step forward." But he also warned of "discordant voices that hope to block or undermine the negotiating process."

"The important thing now is that these accords be implemented," he said.

Representatives of both sides agreed an end to the fighting is near. But just how near remained a matter of speculation.

Guerrilla commander Shafik Handal said the rebels have proposed a truce that could take effect virtually immediately. Col. Herrarte said the army would remain on alert until the fighting stopped.

There is consensus that a cessation of hostilities will be reached by late October. Another negotiating session is scheduled for Oct. 12 in Mexico City.

COLUMN

Diana ends visit to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Britain's Princess Diana left Pakistan for home Friday having impressed many Pakistanis with her commitment to helping society's poorest and neediest. "We know that she is not just a figurehead princess. She takes a genuine interest," said Mira Phulbus, the principal of a Lahore Women's College the princess visited. The 30-year-old princess, wife of the heir to the British throne, was determined to show she was a working member of the royal family during visits to centres helping the disabled and drug addicts, British sources said. With her two boys born more than two years apart, she was hailed by Pakistan's population control chief as the model mother. "We are going to prepare posters with the slogan 'Princess Diana only has two children' in the hope that more women will join the family planning programme," said Mahabub Ahmad. Pakistan has one of the highest birth rates in the world but efforts to promote birth control and proper spacing of children are hampered by cultural barriers and opposition from some Islamic leaders.

Number of U.S. poor rises to 13.5% of population

WASHINGTON (R) — The number of poor Americans increased in 1990 with more than 13 out of every 100 living in poverty, U.S. statisticians have reported. The 13.5 per cent poverty rate, the Commerce Department said, was higher than during the 1970s when the poverty rate dropped to 11.1 per cent of the population in 1973. Officials said that the number of people in poverty increased to 33.6 million in 1990 from 31.5 million in 1989 and most of those under the poverty line — 66.5 per cent — were white. The United States has about 249 million people. In 1989, 12.8 out of every 100 people, 12.8 per cent, were poor. Half of the U.S. poor are either children or elderly. A single person making less than \$6,652 annually would be considered poor. For a family of four, the poverty threshold is \$13,359. The department also released figures showing household income dropped for the first time since 1982, with the median household income at \$29,943 — a decline of \$325 from 1989. That means half of all households had cash income of more than \$29,943 while half had less. It was the first drop in household income since the end of the last major recession in 1982. The number of poor blacks did not change much between 1989 and 1990, but remained very high with 31.9 per cent of all blacks falling under the poverty lines. More than 28 per cent of Hispanics were poor.

Liz Taylor resting at home

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor, ordered to rest after a near-collapse during an appearance this week, was up and about Thursday and recovering her strength at home, a spokeswoman said. Ms. Taylor, 59, is under doctor's orders to rest in bed following a dizzy spell Tuesday in Houston, the eighth stop on a 10-city tour to promote her new perfume line. Here physician, Dr. Michael Roth, said Ms. Taylor was suffering from exhaustion and dehydration. Her spokeswoman said the actress was in excellent health. "Everybody's really exhausted after the eight-city tour," said Chen Sam, a spokeswoman for Ms. Taylor. "I talked to her this morning and she's feeling much better." The ill spell came less than two weeks before Ms. Taylor's Oct. 6 wedding to construction worker Larry Fortensky. It will be the Hollywood glamour queen's eighth marriage. Miss Taylor met the 39-year-old Fortensky during drug abuse treatment at the Betty Ford Clinic in Rancho Mirage, California, in November 1988.

Morgue porter throws severed head at workmate

LONDON (R) — A British hospital fired the chief porter at its mortuary after he lobbed a severed head at a workmate. "It was a dreadful trick to play," said a trade union official at South Tyneside District Hospital in northeast England. The victim of the prank was hired to the mortuary and thrown a bag. When he caught and opened it he found the head of a man who had been killed in a train accident.

Troops clash with Bucharest palace demonstrators

BUCHAREST (R) — Riot police and anti-terrorist troops used tear gas and firecrackers to disperse a crowd of about 5,000 people who stoned Romanian President Ion Iliescu's palace and shouted for him to resign, eyewitnesses said.

The crowd was made up of local workers organised by trade unions and a small group of coalminers who stayed behind after thousands of their colleagues ended an earlier protest.

The security forces opened fire with tear gas and deafening firecrackers from behind a two-metre-high concrete wall at the Cotroceni Palace after protesters hurled stones and bottles, a Reuters correspondent said.

"Assassins, assassins," the demonstrators shouted as they scattered, running down the hill.

Women protesters were screaming angrily.

A correspondent said he saw a pool of blood near the palace gates but it was not clear immediately who was injured.

The crowd which launched the attack had marched from Bucharest's central Revolution Square to the palace in the west of the city intending to join the miners.

The clashes broke out after the 3,000 miners began leaving the palace for home after securing a pledge from Mr. Iliescu that their grievances over pay and work conditions had been acknowledged and he would visit them in the western Jiu Valley next Monday.

Only several hundred miners

were still there when the trouble began, a witness said.

About 8,000 miners came to Bucharest Wednesday and Thursday and led fierce riots, storming Prime Minister Petre Roman's headquarters and forcing him to resign.

The miners were joined during their rampage by many local residents who added Iliescu's resignation to the list of demands. Meanwhile, Romania's ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) party called Friday for immediate elections, saying Romania faced a political crisis after two days of riots led by coalminers.

The front's executive bureau said in a radio statement the protesters were not representatives of the Romanian people.

"We ask the Constituent

Assembly to fulfil its mandate of drafting the constitution as soon as possible, to give the country necessary guarantees for the existence of the state of law," it said.

"At the same time, the NSF executive bureau unanimously considers it is urgently necessary that a new legislative assembly be constituted through immediate elections."

Mr. Iliescu earlier met NSF deputy leader Ion Aurel Stoica and leaders of eight opposition parties and asked them to propose a new government formula later in the day.

Leaders of two of the opposition parties called for a coalition government of technocrats capable of organising free and honest elections as soon as possible.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Gorbachev changes KGB status in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Thursday switched control of the KGB's Moscow branch to Boris Yeltsin's Russian Federation government. The presidential decree was the latest move to strengthen the Russian Republic's power and Mr. Yeltsin's personal authority since he led the forces that defeated last month's hardline coup against Mr. Gorbachev. The KGB security police in the capital had been under control of national authorities. Now it will be under the Russian KGB, and indirectly under Mr. Yeltsin. Mr. Gorbachev's decree, carried by the Soviet News Agency (TASS), said the step would provide for "prompter actions of state security bodies" and their "effective interaction" with municipal and regional authorities.

Pope urges peace in N. Ireland

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul has condemned all forms of violence in Northern Ireland and said Catholics and Protestants should strive to overcome prejudices and hostility inherited from the past. "I have often referred to the need to overcome the prejudices or hostilities inherited from history in relations between majorities and minorities," the Pope told Britain's new, ambassador to the Vatican, Andrew Eustace Palmer. "Unfortunately, we see with what obstinacy such attitudes survive the passage of time," he said. In his address to Mr. Palmer at a credentials presentations ceremony the Pope added: "These same thoughts and sentiments express my deep concern and sorrow with regard to the continuing tragedy of Northern Ireland... The church continues to condemn all acts of violence and intimidation, from whatever source they originate. Peace cannot come from injustice and violence it can only be built on respect for the rights of individuals and peoples and on a shared sense of responsibility for the well-being of the entire population," he said.

Peru rebels kill army general

LIMA, PERU (AP) — Maoist rebels struck a blow against government efforts to control the capital's shantytowns, fatally shooting an army general who ran a programme to hand out food and medicine, the military said Thursday. The general, who was head of Peru's top military hospital, was one of the highest-ranking officers killed in the 11 years since the rebels first took up arms. A spokesman for the joint command, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the rebels shot Gen. Walter Perna Rivas five times in the chest during the Wednesday night killing.

Bonn seeks compromise on abortion laws

BONN (AP) — Parliament Thursday began the emotion-charged task of trying to reconcile Germany's two widely diverging abortion laws. Lawmakers have offered proposals ranging from allowing penalty-free abortions to a ban on the practice. The issue has splintered roughly along political lines and is further complicated by the different official abortion policies of west and east Germany, which unified last year. The decision of a unified abortion position was left up to parliament, whose debate Thursday was the formal start of what could be a long process of settling the issue. East Germany's abortion regulations — which permit abortions in the first trimester — are still in effect in that part of the nation. West German law — which restricts abortions in the first 12 weeks to provable cases of need — is still effect in this part of Germany. Politicians are trying to reach a compromise but they appear far from agreement. Uta Wuerfel, a lawmaker with the Free Democrats, junior partner in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition government, said a pregnant mother alone has the right to decide whether it would be better for her and the child not to give birth.

U.S. Senate backs B-2, SDI

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate narrowly rejected efforts to cut President George Bush requests for the B-2 Stealth bomber and anti-missile defence research because of the break up of the Soviet Union. It rejected 51-48 a proposal to halt production of the radar-evading B-2 bomber with the 15 already approved by the U.S. Congress, as the House of Representatives

has voted to do. Later it rejected 59-49 an effort to also follow the House of Representatives in cutting Bush's \$5.2 billion request for Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) anti-missile defence research to \$3.5 billion. Opponents said the cuts could be made from a \$270 billion defence appropriation bill before the Senate because of the break up of the Soviet Union, and said the savings were needed for future domestic spending.

Rebels kill 28 in Philippines

MANILA (R) — Fresh fighting erupted in the Philippines when Communist rebels killed 26 government soldiers and two civilians in ambushes just days after calling off a unilateral ceasefire, the military said Friday. In their deadliest ambush this year, the guerrillas virtually wiped out an army patrol in the northern Philippines, killing 22 soldiers and wounding six, a military report said. One soldier was reported missing. The number of soldiers killed was the highest in a single clash this year between government troops and the Communist New People's Army, which has been fighting for 22 years to establish a Marxist state, military officials said. Six people, including two civilians, were killed in a rebel ambush on central Negros Island Thursday, second day of a local ceasefire declared by the provincial government. Six people were wounded and taken to hospital.

Imelda Marcos postpones return

NEW YORK (R) — Imelda Marcos postponed her trip Thursday to Honolulu — a trip which she had suggested would be stopover before returning to Manila to face trial on tax evasion charges there. Roger Peyuan, spokesman for the former Philippines first lady, said she had planned to go to Honolulu to hold a memorial mass to mark the second anniversary of the death of her husband, Ferdinand, who died in exile in Hawaii on Sept. 28, 1989. There have been unexpected developments which have not been disclosed to us," he said. "She will not be travelling to Honolulu Thursday." The delay in the trip was announced after Mrs. Marcos, who lives in New York, spent several hours consulting her attorney and close advisers, Mr. Peyuan said.

Pilot: Noriega wanted drug cash

MIAMI (AP) — The prosecution's star witness against Manuel Noriega testified Thursday that the former Panamanian dictator negotiated a tough deal to protect the Medellín cocaine cartel's first drug flights through Panama. Drug pilot-turned-informant Floyd Carlton, a longtime Noriega associate, said that in 1982 Noriega angrily spurned the cartel's initial offer of \$30,000 to \$50,000 per 400-kilogramme cocaine load flown into Panama en route to the United States. Meanwhile, U.S. district judge Kenneth Ryskamp Thursday stayed depositions set Saturday for Noriega's wife and two daughters in a suit by the government of Panama charging the family engaged in racketeering with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. Judge Ryskamp said he would let the depositions be taken on Oct. 4 unless fresh arguments persuade him to intervene. In his testimony, Mr. Carlton said he had passed on the offer to Gen. Noriega after meeting with cartel chiefs Pablo Escobar and Gustavo Gaviria in Medellín, Colombia.

Galileo 'hears' lightning on Venus

PASADENA, California (AP) — The Jupiter-bound Galileo spacecraft has found the best evidence yet that Venus has lightning. And unless NASA can fix a stuck antenna, that could be one of the \$1.4 billion mission's biggest discoveries. The study being published Friday in the journal Science didn't reveal whether the lightning is produced by thunderstorms or by ash clouds from yet-undetected volcanic eruptions on Venus. Planets already known to have lightning include Earth, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. The existence of lightning on Venus has been debated since weaker evidence was detected in 1979 by NASA's pioneer Venus orbiter and the Soviet Venera 11 and 12 landers. Galileo past Venus last year, detecting radar signals produced by six to nine lightning flashes in Venus' sulfuric acid clouds, said the report by University of Iowa physicist Donald A. Gurnett and colleagues in France and California.